

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, 11-15, 17-32, 44-55, 57-62, 64, 65, and 67-99 are pending in the application, of which claims 57, 58, 70-74, 77, and 78 are being amended and claim 75 is being canceled under Rule 312. The claim amendments add no new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Claims 57, 58, 70-74, 77, and 78 are being amended to cosmetically improve the claims without affecting the scope of the claims; and thus, the scope of the doctrine of equivalents applied to the claims should not be limited under the rules of Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 535 U.S. 722, 2002 Lexis 3818 (May 28, 2002).

Claim 75 is being canceled because it contains language that is essentially duplicating the language found in the independent claims.

CONCLUSION

It is believed the above-discussed amendments should be entered under Rule 312. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the above remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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